

August 23, 2016

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OREGON OPERATIONS OFFICE

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Portland, OR 97216

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EPA-REGION 10

U.S. EPA
ATTN: Harbor Comments
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205

The EPA's river cleanup plan is atrocious. The agency is possibly taking the pollution from Portland and moving it up to the Arlington area, and it will come right back down the river. They have not been tracking the progress of the river cleanup over the last ten years, and it bothers me that they're ignoring more current information. It sounds like they're simply creating a new project just to say they're creating a project, not knowing what the long-term repercussions might be. Furthermore, the projected cost they have released for their plan is unreliable; you always have to expect that any project will cost 20% more than originally expected. It just doesn't make any sense environmentally or financially.

The Willamette River has been polluted from Eugene all the way down for decades with no plans for improvement. Meanwhile, the state has brought in millions of dollars in revenue from legalizing marijuana. Even with these additional funds nothing has been done to clean up the environment or tackle any other local needs. It makes me wonder where the money is going, or who is pocketing it?

Instead of their current plan, the EPA should study how the Corps of Engineers solves these problems. They could tackle each problem area of the river as an individual project instead of trying to change everything all at once. They could create better control over the natural processes to figure out where the problem areas are. I'm sure research can show more problematic areas where they can dedicate their time and effort and slowly go through the river instead of just dredging it all. Other cities have cleaned up their rivers successfully in the past; we should study what they have done and implement the more successful plans. Don't just jump in the water without doing research on what works and what doesn't.

Sincerely,

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